

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hajo RIECK et al. Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Appln. No. : 10/541,846 Examiner: Not yet assigned
I.A. Filed : December 23, 2003 Confirmation No: 6757
For : METHOD FOR FIXING THE POSITION OF A PULL-TAB WITH A STEEP ANTI ROTATION DEVICE FORMED FROM THE PANEL OF A SHEET METAL COVER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

(1) U.S. Patent No. 5,799,816 issued September 1, 1998 to SCHUBERT, which is discussed in the instant translation beginning in line 22 of page 1.

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/DE03/04282, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the International Examiner cited:

(2) U.S. Patent No. 3,868,918 issued March 4, 1975 to SMITH, Jr. et al. as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with regard to claims 1-3 of the International application. The Examiner also cited this document as an "A" category document (i.e.,

technological background) with regard to claim 4 of the International application. The Examiner noted the claims, and the figures as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note U.S. Patent No. 3,749,275 issued July 31, 1973 to SMITH, Jr. et al., which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited U.S. Patent;

(3) Patent Abstracts of Japan of JP 09226762 published September 2, 1997 as an "A" category document with regard to claim 1 of the International application. The Examiner noted the abstract and figures 3 and 4as being particularly relevant.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merit has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hajo RIECK et al.

Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

May 15, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

